HE'S-...

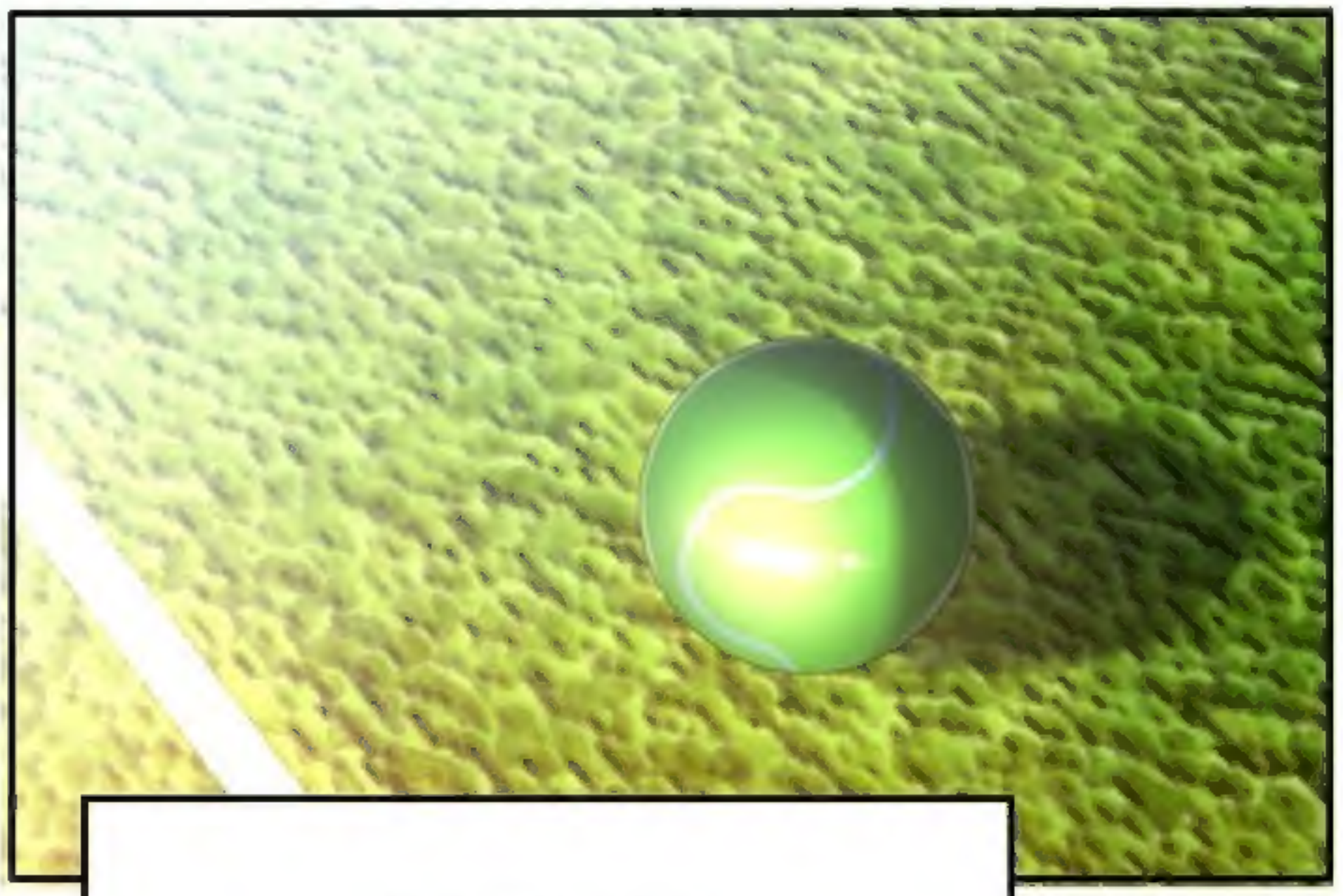
..BLEEDING!?

Ecstasy Hearts

39

The Beauty and the Beast

" MY DAD ONCE TOLD ME
AXEL'S TENNIS WAS DESIGNED TO
HURT HIS OPPONENTS.
I DID EXPERIENCE
IT MYSELF BUT.."



"..THAT DAY,
I NEVER THOUGHT HE WOULD
DO SOMETHING SO
HORRIBLE TO MY MUM."

" I THOUGHT HE'S JUST
BEING STUPID ON
PURPOSE."

" I WAS SO NAIVE.

I JUST REALIZED SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT.."

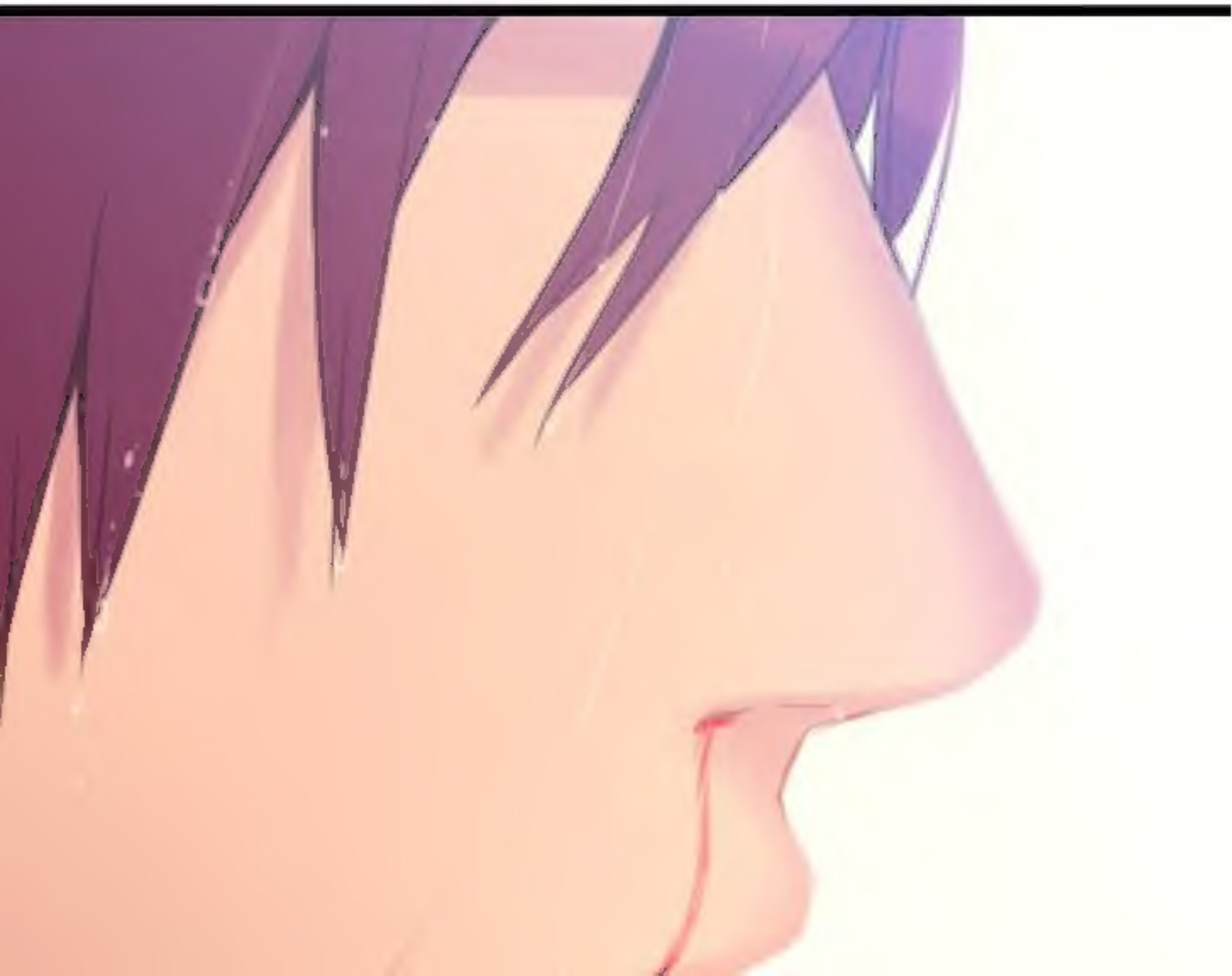
"..SOMETHING'S WRONG

WITH HIM."

AXEL...

HE'S-..

" HE'S INSANE "



HA..

HA...

HA..

HA..

WHAT REASON DO YOU HAVE?

HATE

HOW COULD YOU DO THIS TO ME?

HA..

HA..

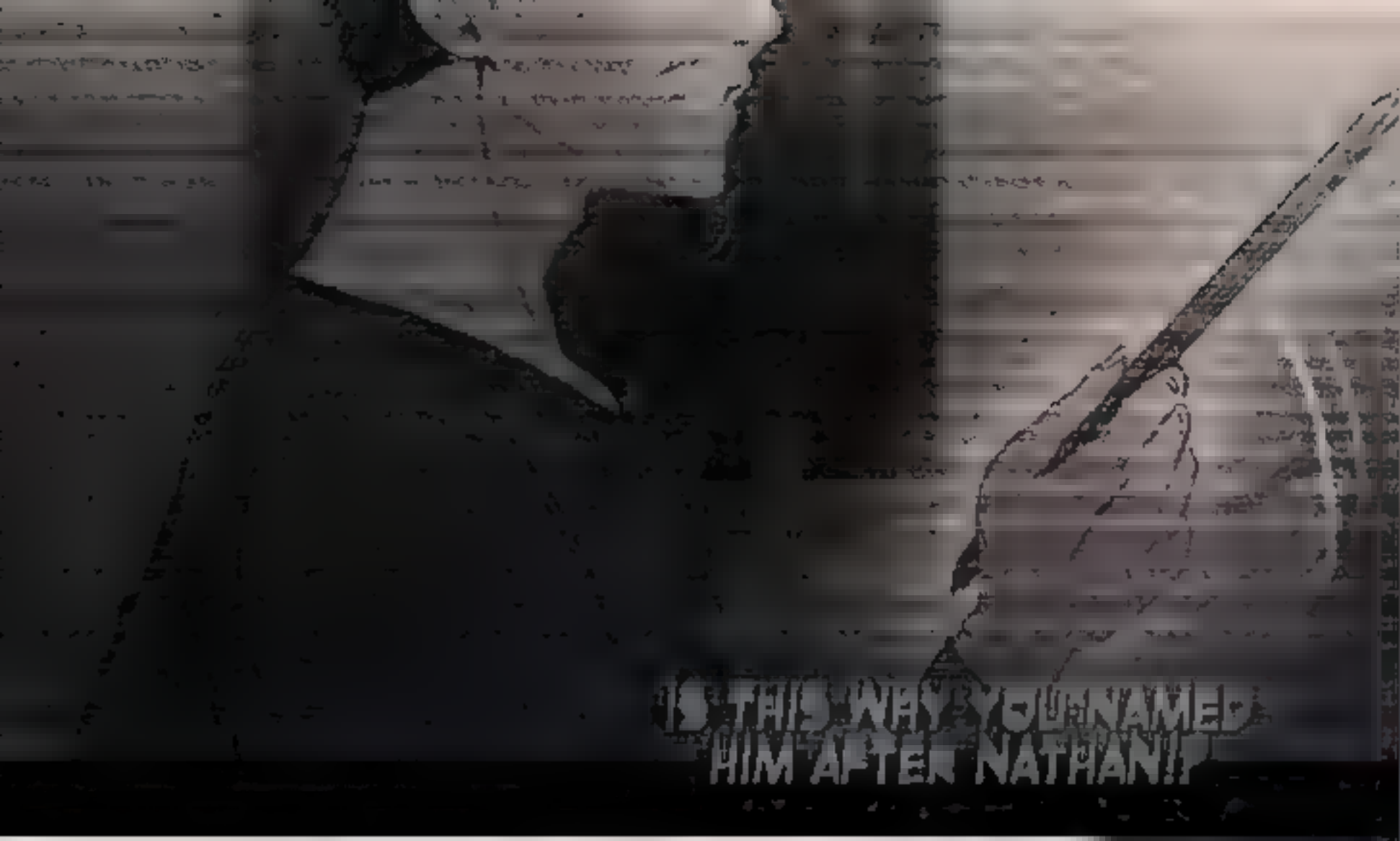
HA..

HA..

HA..

PLEASE... PLEASE...

D-DON'T HURT HIM... HE'S YOUR CHILD!


IS THIS WHY YOU NAMED HIM AFTER NATHAN!!

YOU BITCH!!

DADDY...

DADDY...

DADDY...

DADDY...

W-WHAT IS THIS?

WHY AM I SEEING THIS?

NATHANIEL?
DADDY ISN'T MAD.
DADDY WANTS TO PLAY WITH YOU.

...HIDE-AND-SEEK?

ARE WE PLAYING...

ALRIGHT THEN

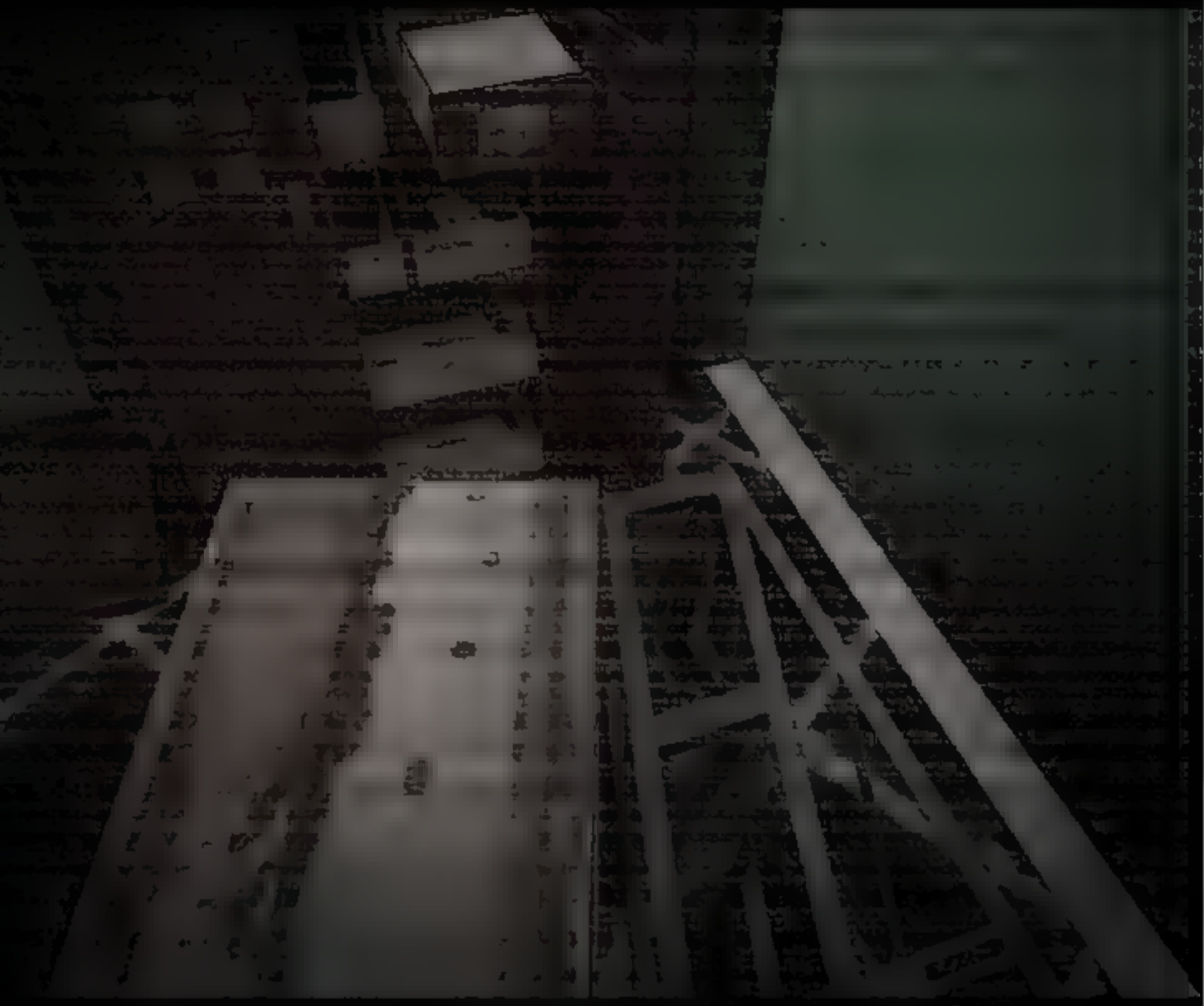
DADDY WILL LOOK FOR YOU.

WHERE COULD NATHANIEL BE?

UNDER THE TABLE?

BEHIND THE DOORS?

OR MAYBE..

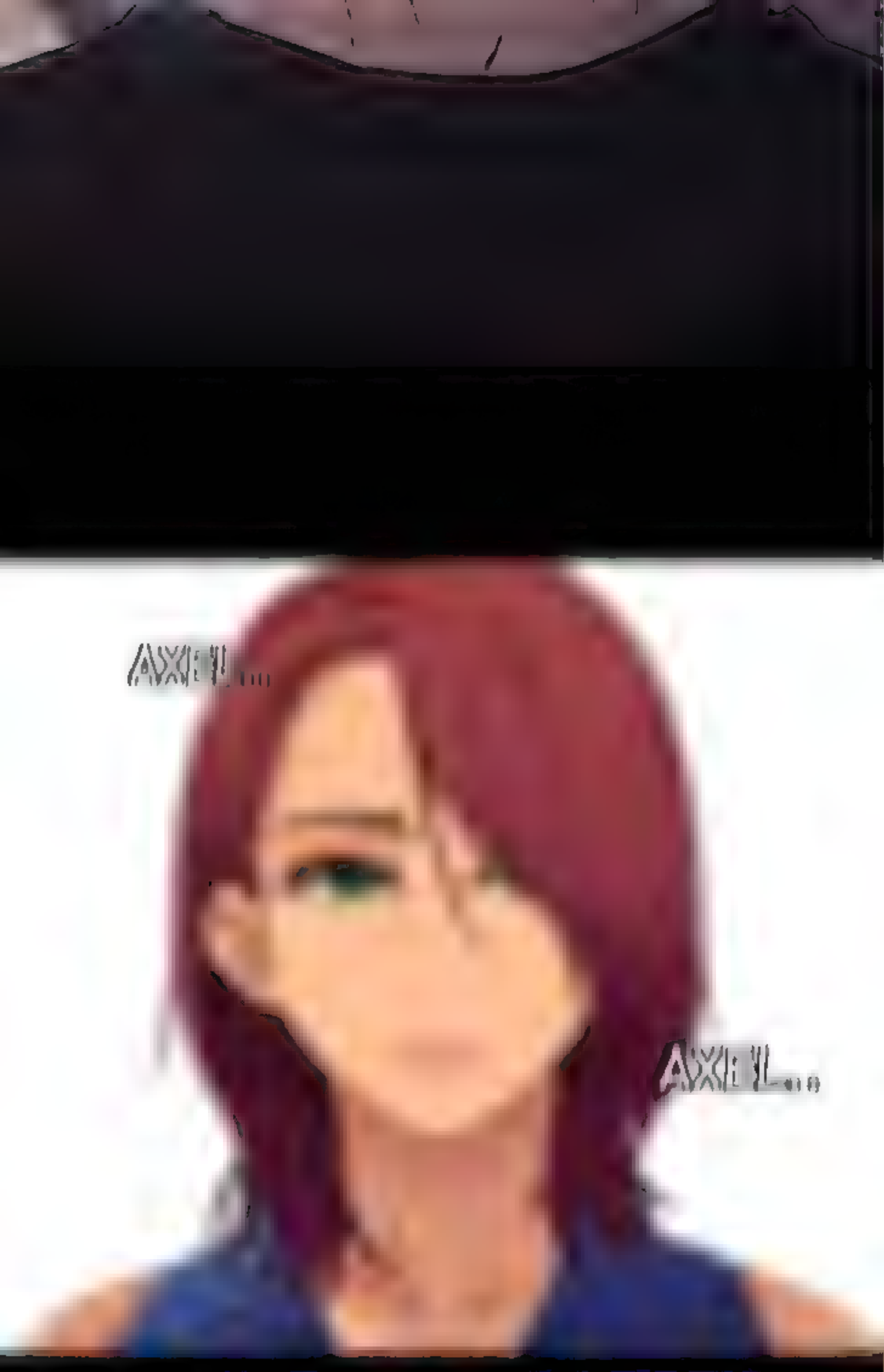


FOUND YOU.

NO..

NO..

STOP..


AXEL

"MOM?"

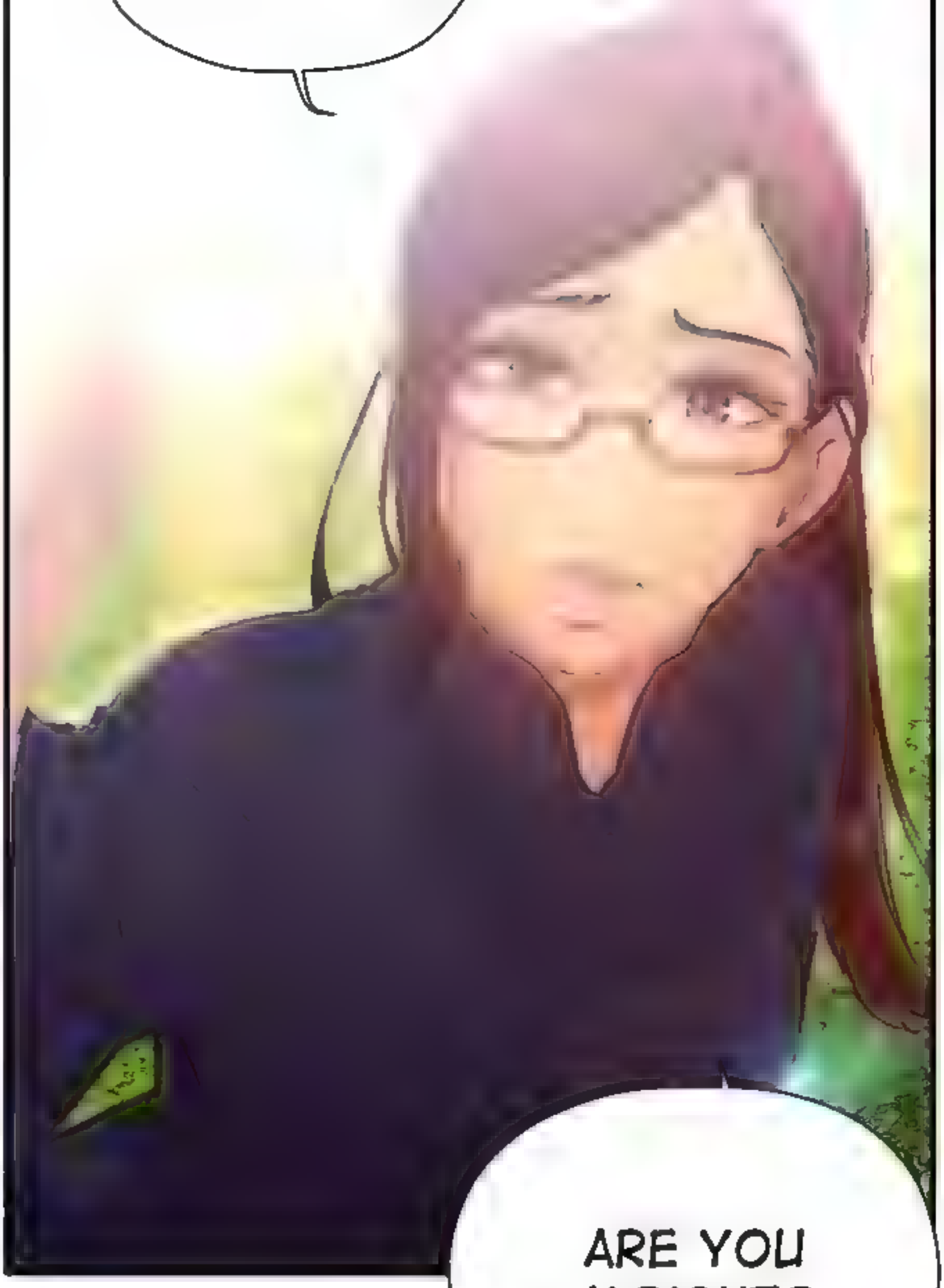
AXIOM

AXIOM

AXEL!!

!!

YOUR NOSE
IS BLEEDING.



ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

ANYA..

ARE YOU ALRIGHT? DOES YOUR HEAD HURT?

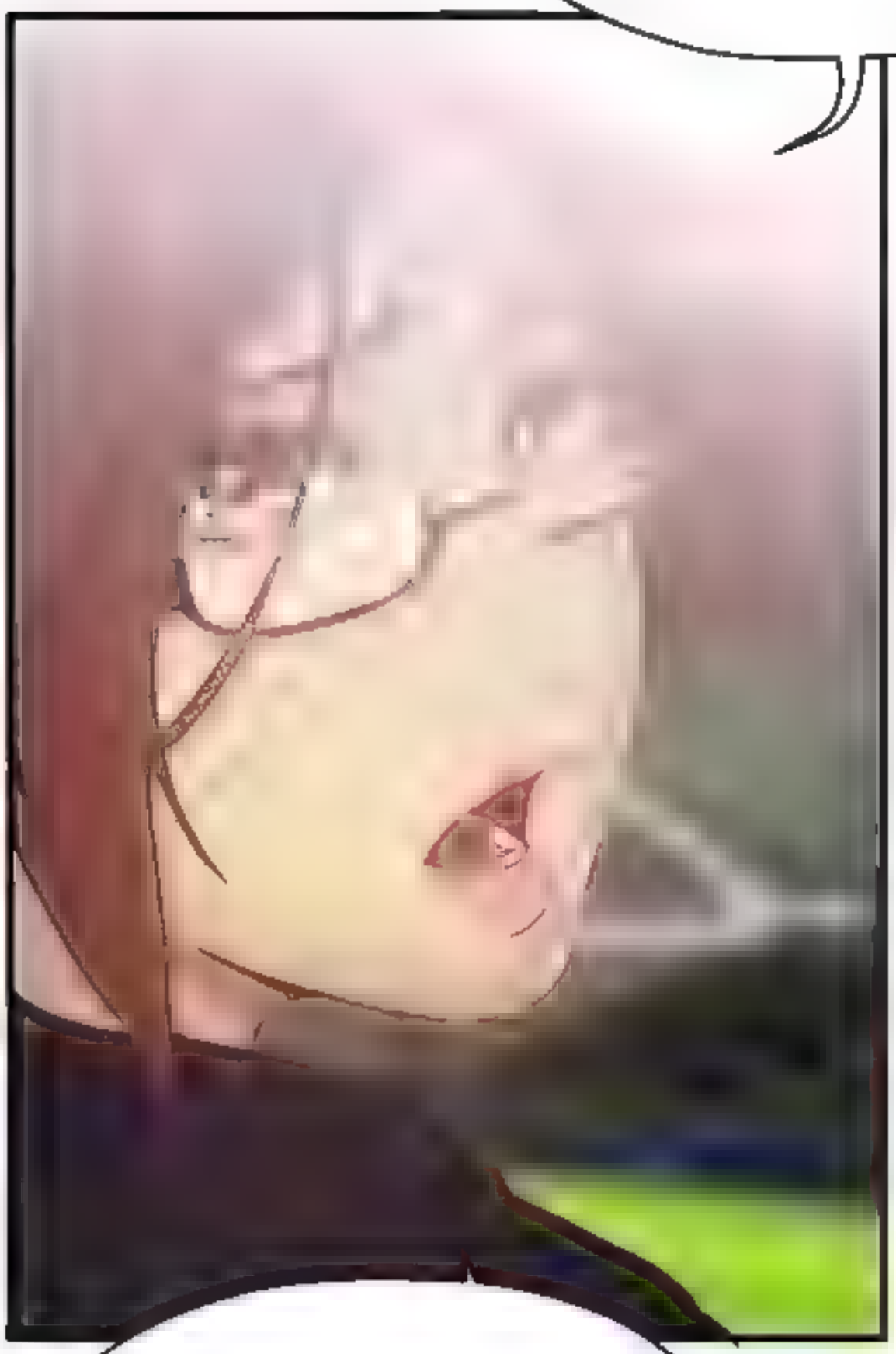
N-NO.. I'M FINE.

LET ME CLEAN THOSE BLOOD, OKAY?

EXCUSE ME?

HOW IN THE WORLD
IS THAT THREE METERS,
ANYA?
ARE YOU TRYING TO
TEST MY PATIENCE?
YOU DON'T WANT TO
START ON ME NOW,
DO YOU?

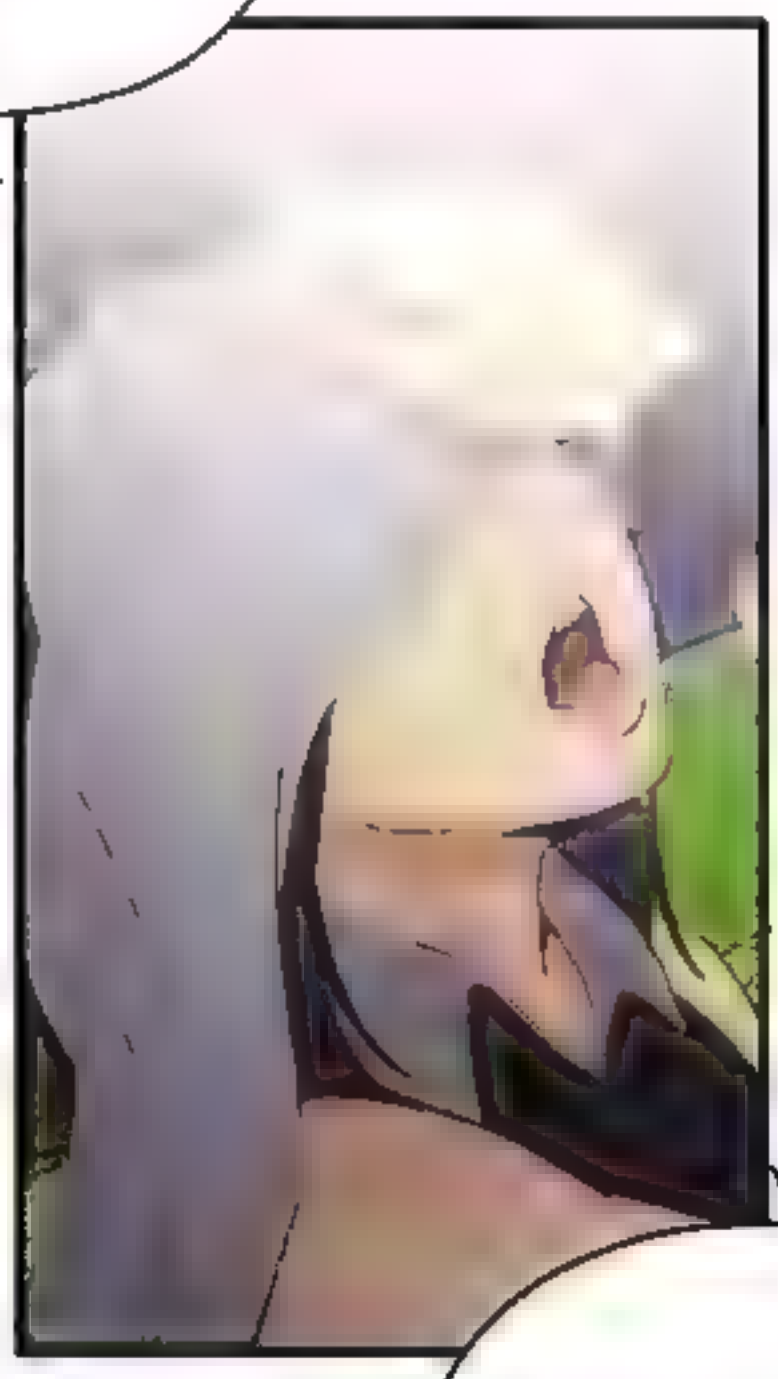
BUT MUM!



HE'S BLEEDING,

I JUST-..

OH MY GOD.
MY HEAD HURTS!
I THINK
I'M BLEEDING
TOO.



ANYA GET ME
SOME WATER
PLEASE?
HURRY UP!

WHY IS SHE BEING SO CHILDISH!?

McDonald's
MEANWHILE..

FEW MILES AWAY FROM THE STADIUM..

NATHAN'S GREATEST BATTLE BEGINS.

COME ON NOW QUINNEE.

YOU HAVE TO EAT. MOMMY WILL KILL ME IF YOU-..

NO!

I WILL WAIT FOR MUM.

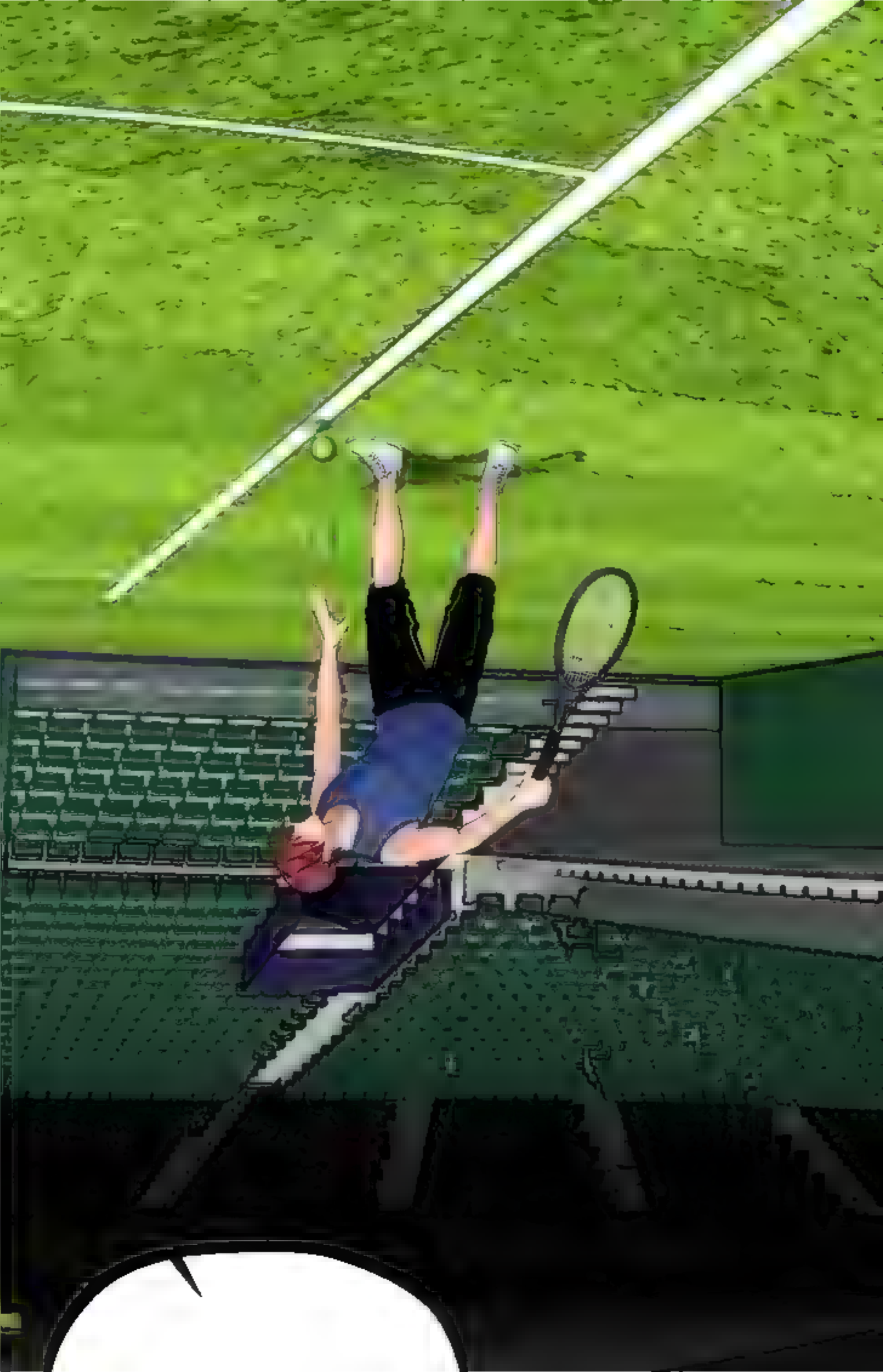
I THINK THAT'S A BAD IDEA, QUINNEE.

HA-HA...

ALRIGHT.
HOW ABOUT WE
ORDER EXTRA LARGE
CURLY FRIES,
BURGER AND CHICKEN,
AND A STRAWBERRY
SUNDAE FOR DESSERT,
HUH?

HMMP!!

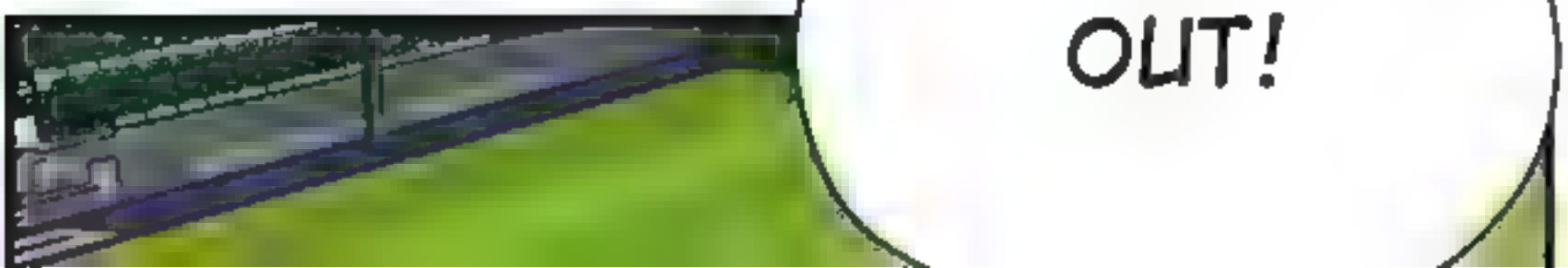
AXEL LEADS.
2-1



KOIZUMI AXEL
TO SERVE!

" HE WAS JUST DOING FINE AFTER HIS SERVICE PLAY"

" AXEL PLAYED THE WAY HE DID DURING THE FIRST GAMES."



15- LOVE!

30- LOVE!

OUT!

30- 15!

OUT!

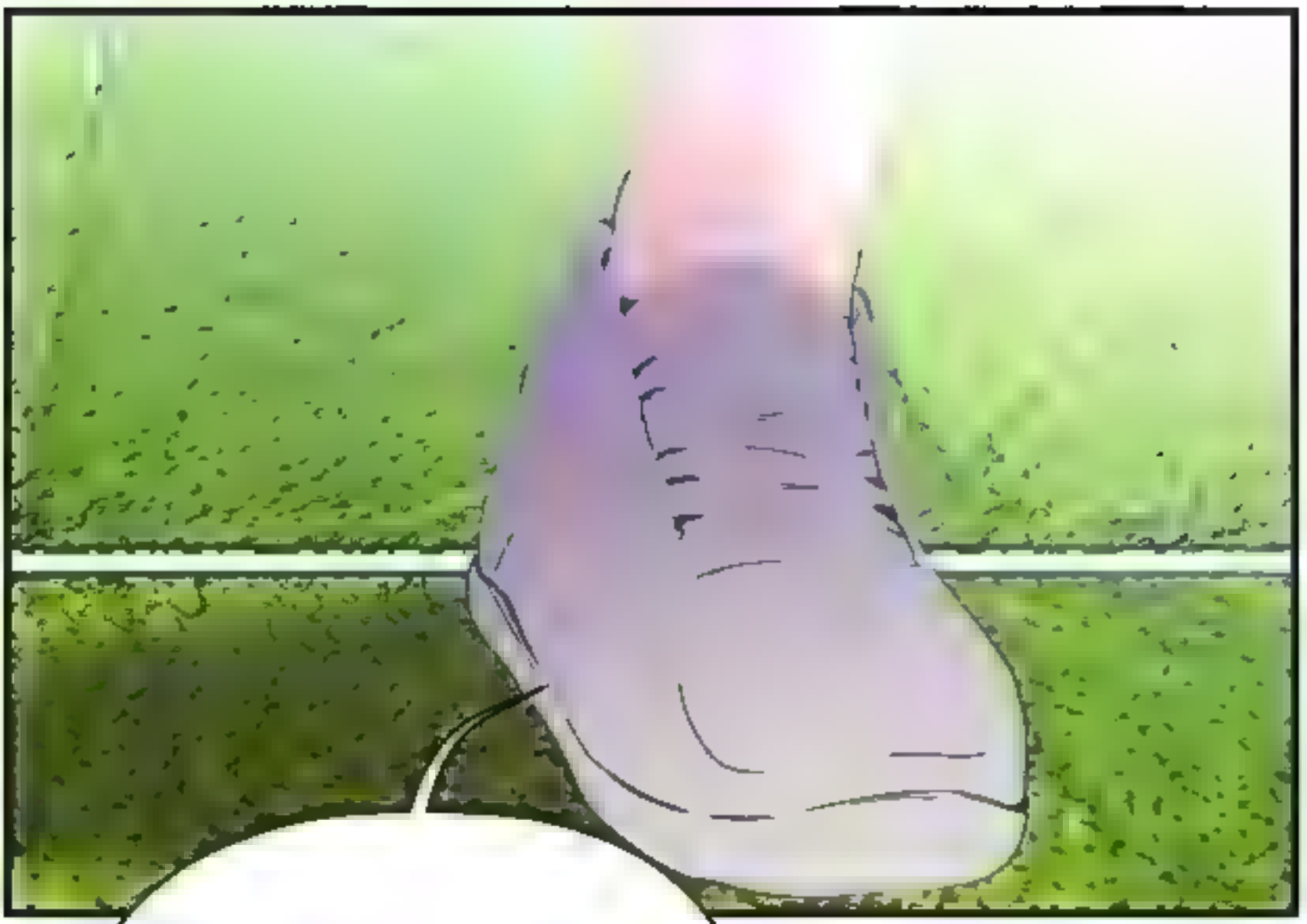
OUT!

30-40!

I GUESS IT'S TIME FOR ME TO USE THE OTHER SIDE OF MY TENNIS, KID.

I NEVER USED THIS FORM IN MY OFFICIAL MATCHES.

IT LOOKS SO UNGRACEFUL TO ME BUT..



..THIS WAS THE TENNIS I USED TO BEAT NATHAN.

EVEN IF YOU MANAGE TO COPY ME.
YOU CAN NEVER OUTPLAY THE QUEEN OF THIS COURT!

WHY'D YOU SWITCH HANDS?
ARE YOU RIGHT-HANDED?

NO.

THIS STYLE
IS DOUBLE-EDGED.
I CAN'T RISK AN
INJURY ON MY
DOMINANT HAND,
KID.

ALRIGHT.

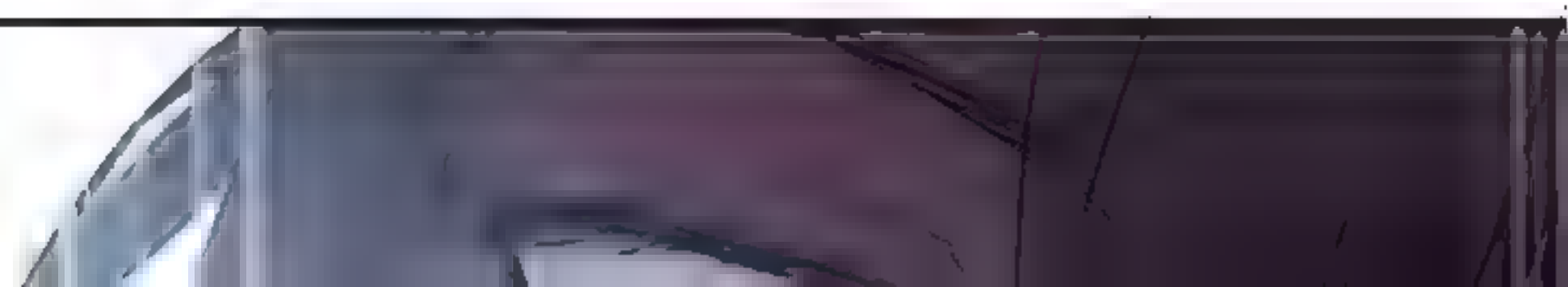
THEN I'LL FORCE YOU TO

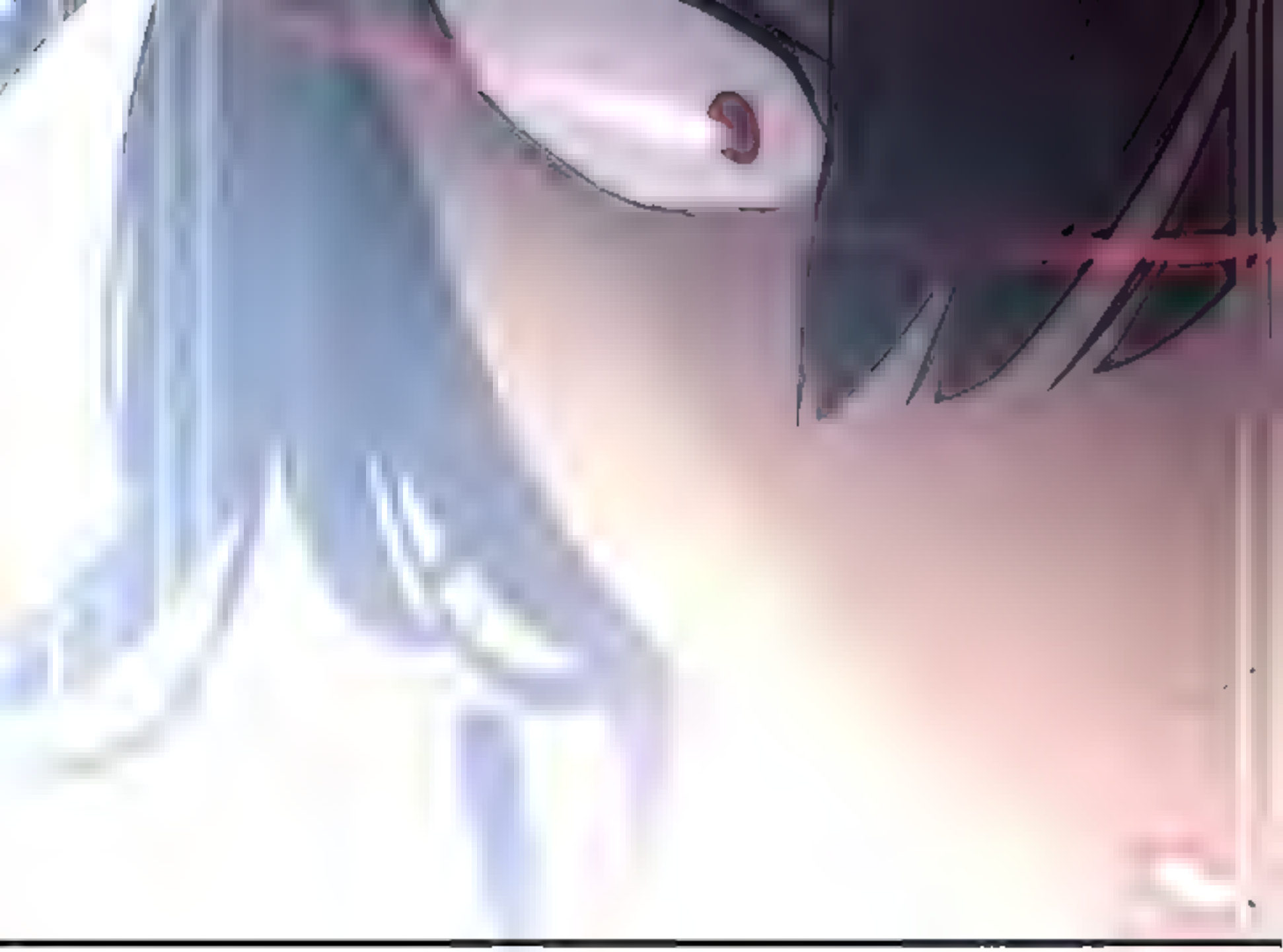
RISK YOUR
LEFT HAND.

DON'T BLAME ME IF YOU GET HURT..

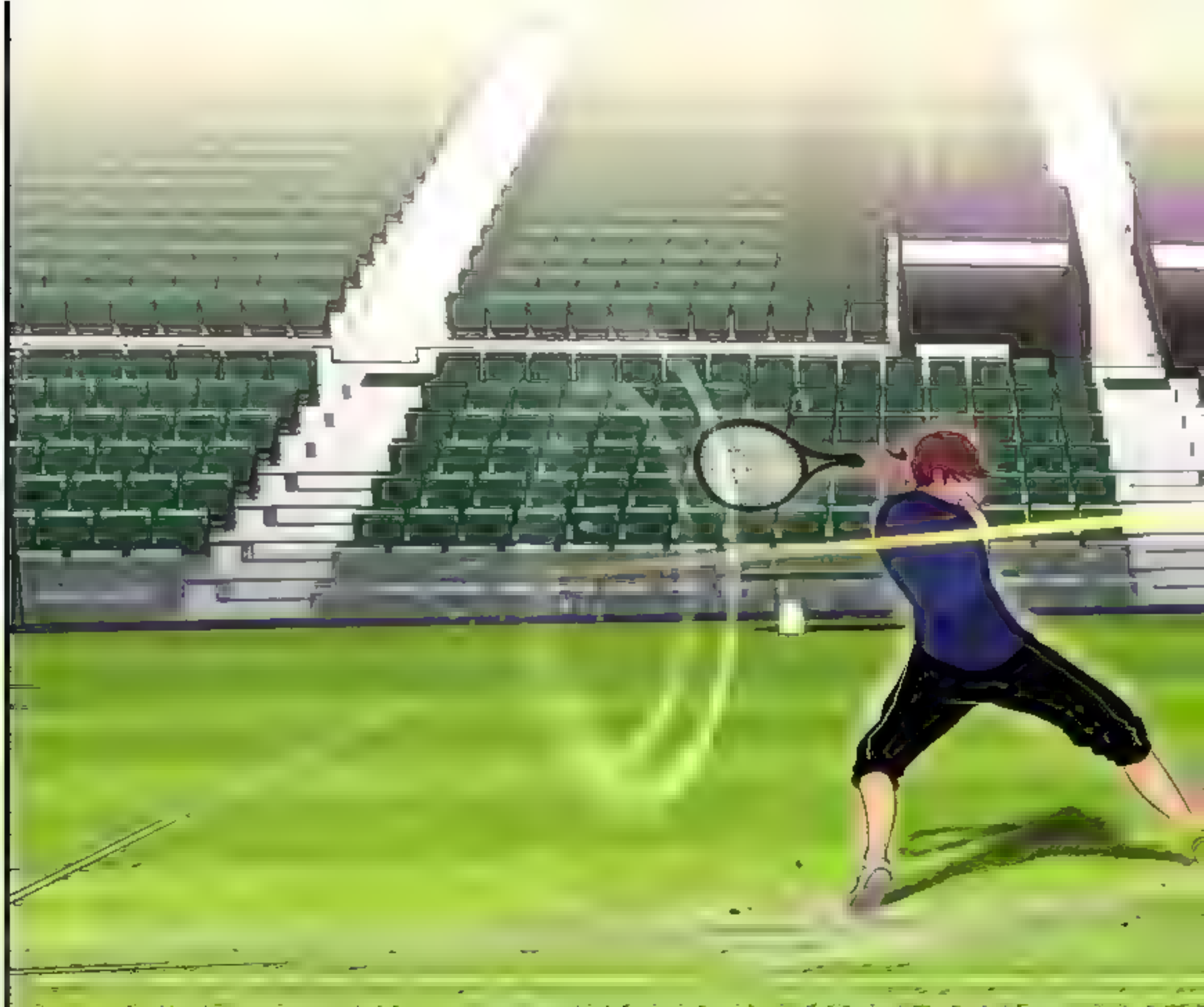
AYANE-SAN!

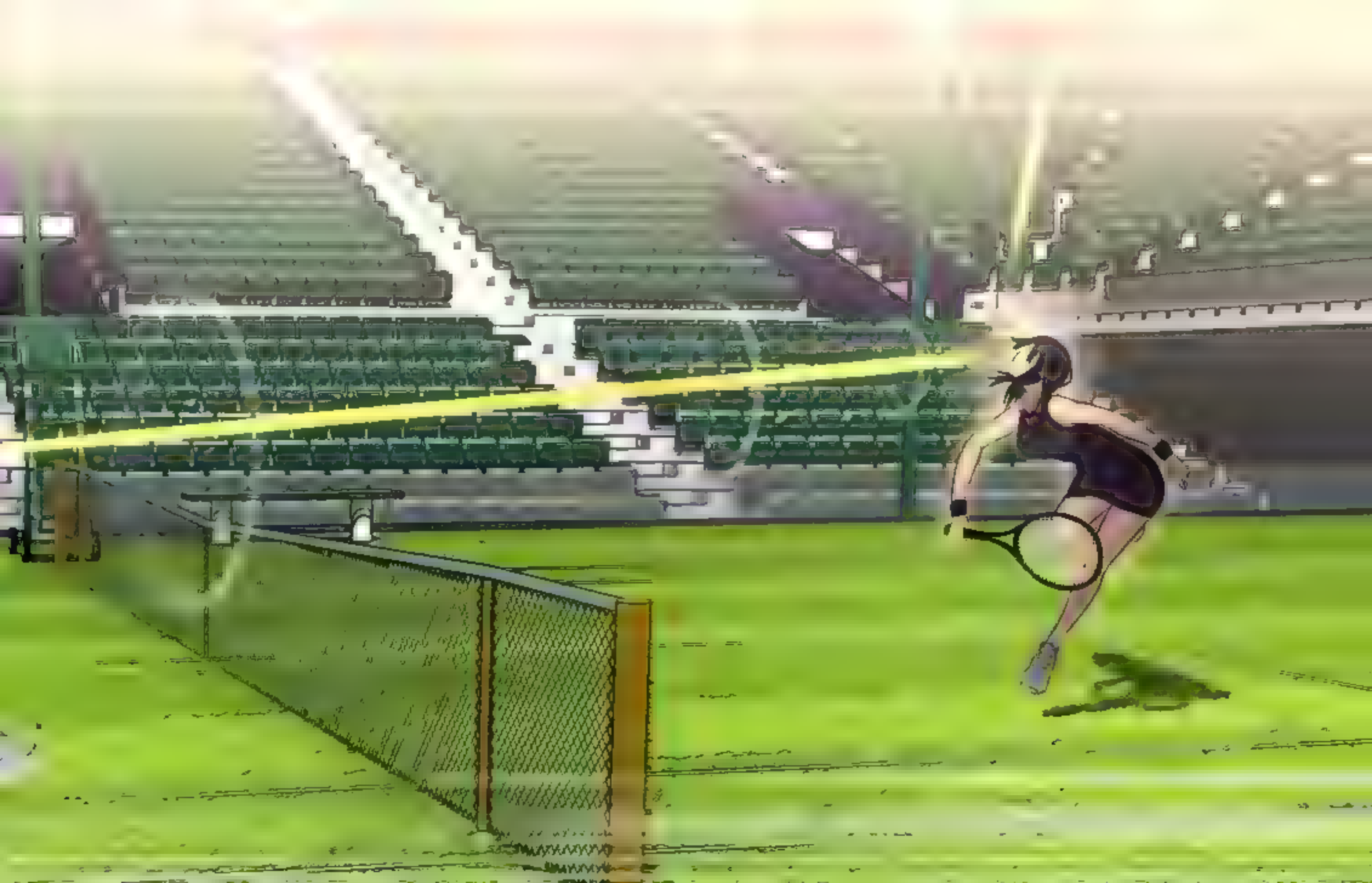
" THEN AXEL
SUDDENLY CHANGED"

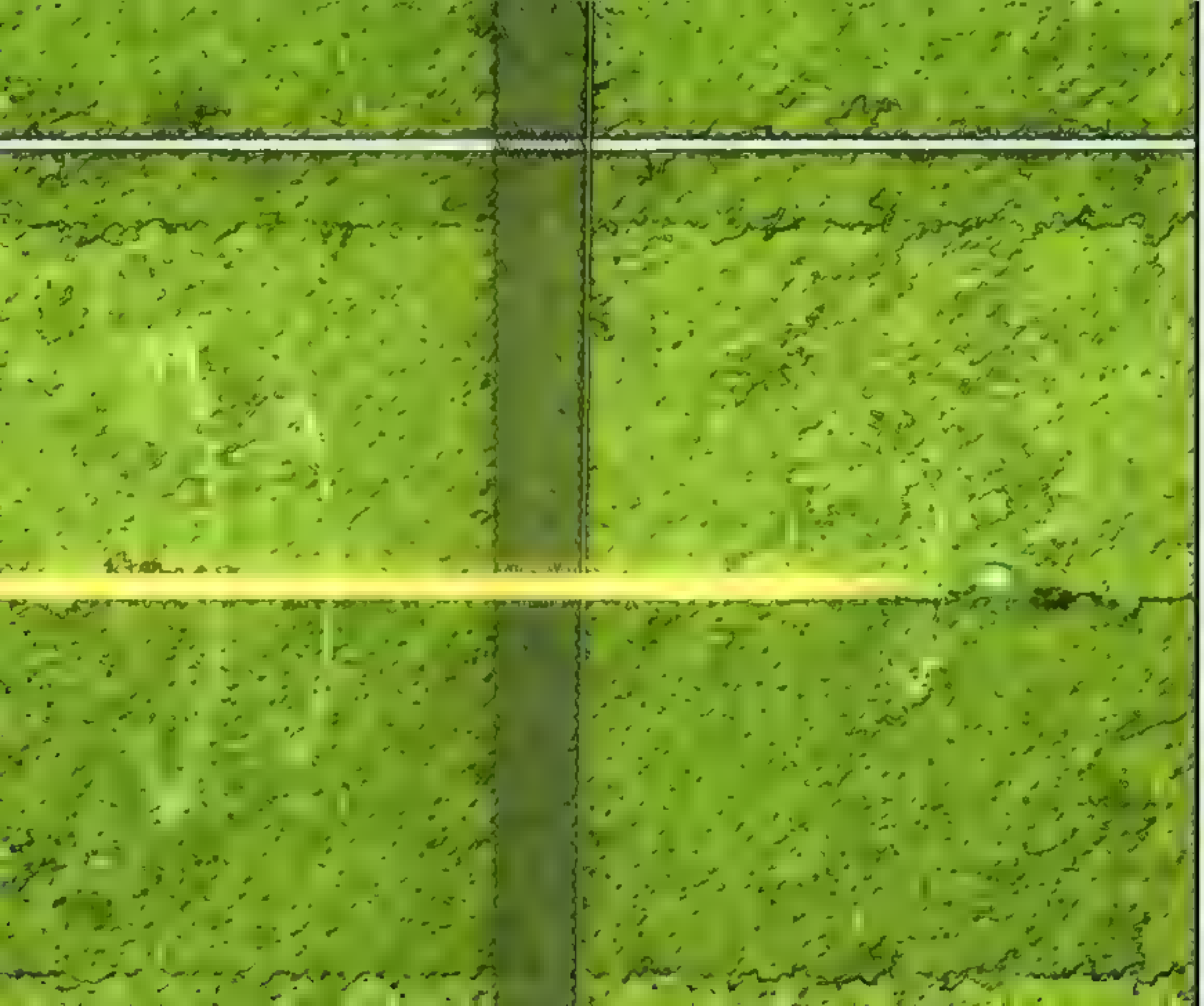


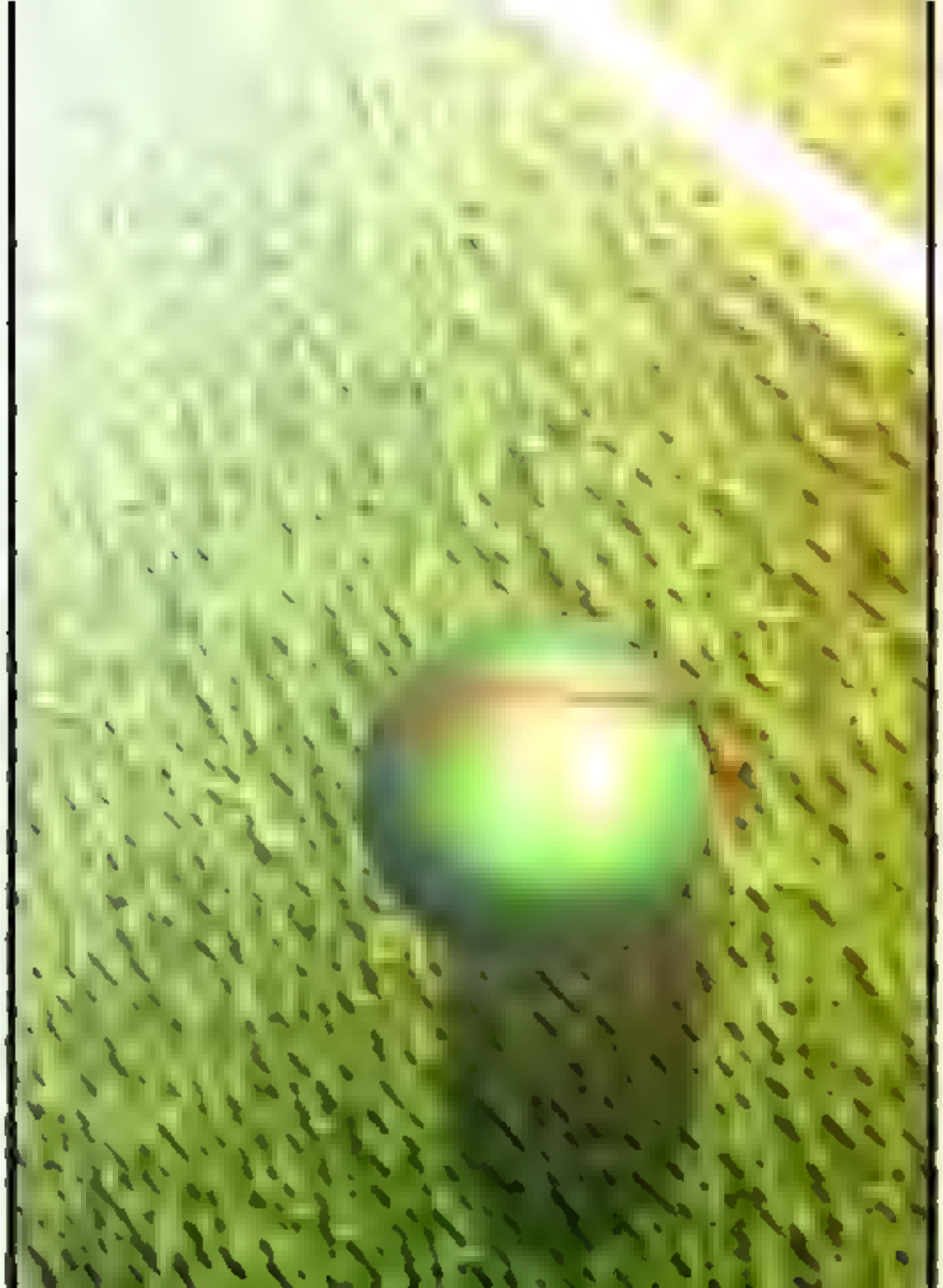


PIN HER DOWN.







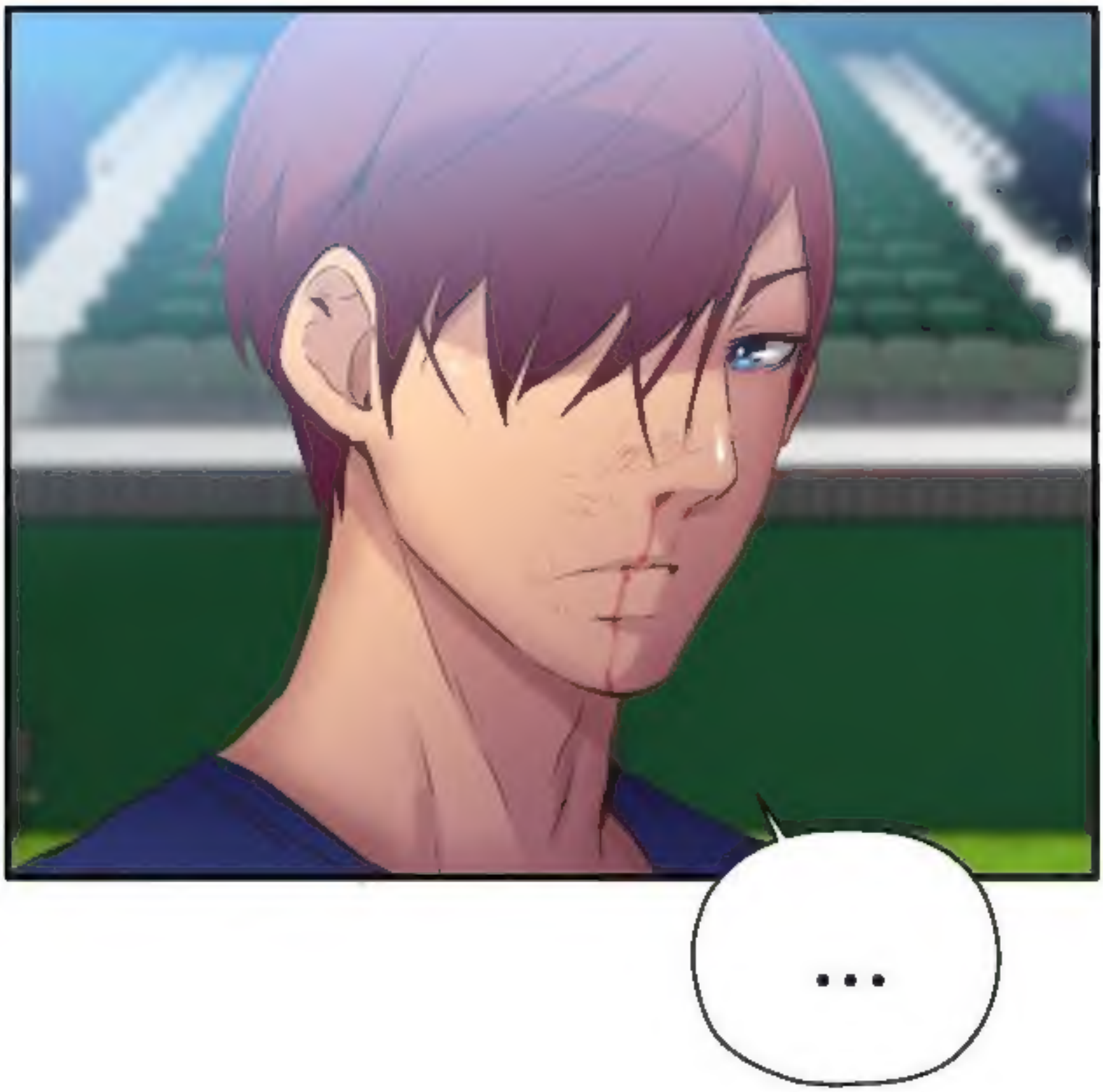


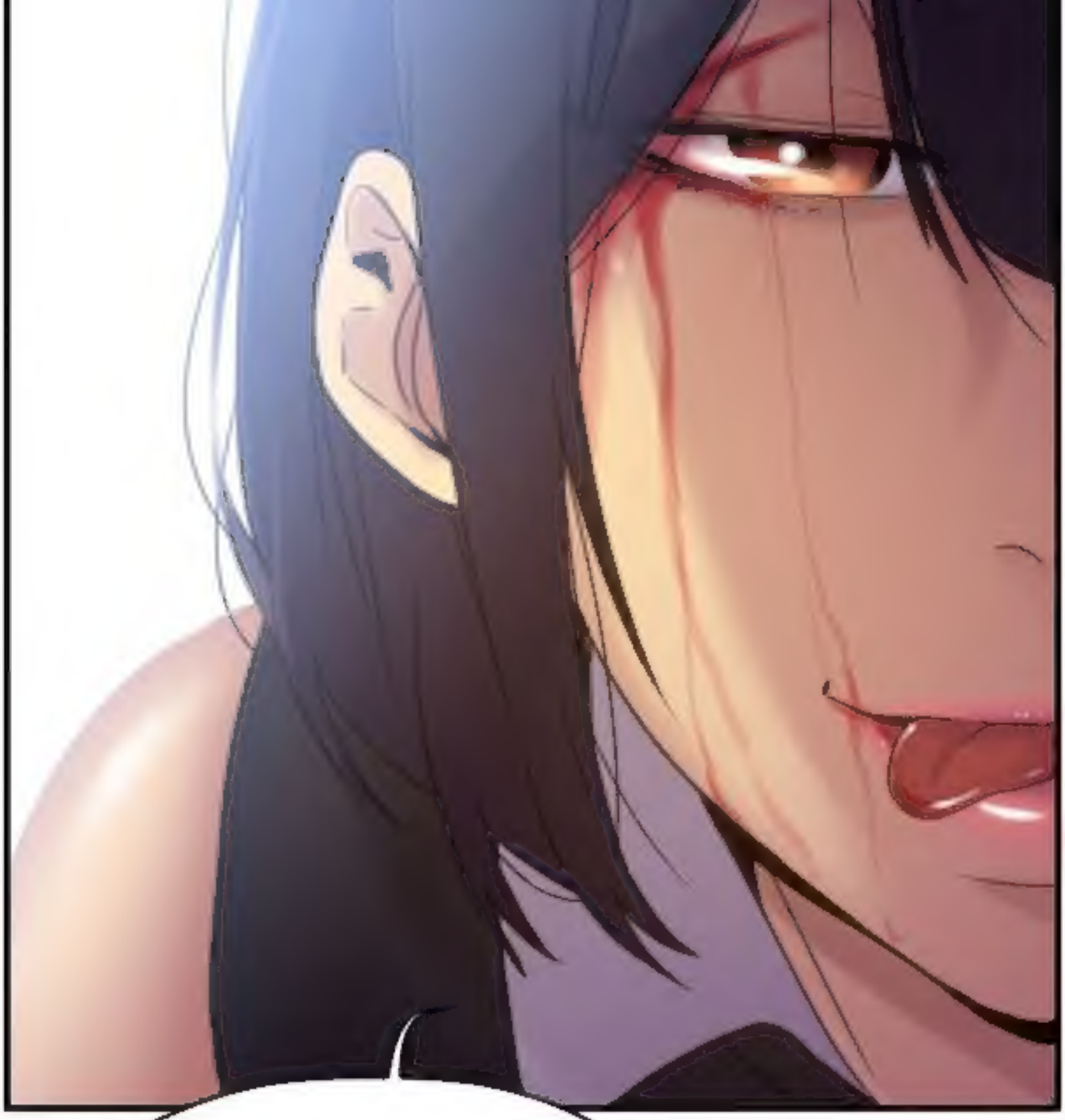
SO IT FINALLY CAME OUT..

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THAT OTHER YOU TO PLAY WITH ME, KID.

I CAN'T LET ANYA FACE THAT MADNESS OF YOURS HEAD ON.

HOH?





I'LL BE YOUR NIGHTMARE'S NIGHTMARE, KID.

TO BE CONTINUED..

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